

All of us who have been sworn to uphold the Constitution recognize the vital role our newspapers play in protecting our freedoms by remaining vigilant against any violations of our First Amendment. I urge all Nevadans and all members of this House to join with me in congratulating Sherman on winning this high honor.

# NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China and is celebrated internationally as Taiwan's National Day. As this historic day approaches, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for their continuing political reforms and economic achievements.

Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, Taiwan has established itself as a strong and successful model of democracy. Under the leadership of President Chen, the government and people of Taiwan have continued to implement domestic reforms and strengthen diplomatic relations with surrounding nations. This continuing commitment to democratic progress can best be seen in next year's elections. With both the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 2004, next year will likely prove to be a politically dynamic and exciting year for Taiwan. I applaud the robust multiparty democracy that Taiwan has become.

Mr. Speaker, along with its democratic development, Taiwan remains an important economic partner for the United States. We are Taiwan's largest market, but Taiwan is our 7th largest trading partner. This is a remarkable achievement for this island nation of 22 million people. Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization last year will set the stage for even greater opportunities for U.S. business.

Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan continues to earn international acclaim as a model of democratic progress and free market economics, I call on my colleagues to join me in commending Taiwan during the upcoming celebration of Taiwan's National Day.

# CONGRATULATIONS ON TAIWAN'S 92ND ANNIVERSARY OF NA- TIONAL DAY

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to offer my congratulations to the 23 million people of Taiwan; it will be celebrating the 92nd anniversary of its National Day on October 10, 2003.

Taiwan is a dynamic democracy, and world economic leader. With a total of more than 95 political parties, every public office is hotly contested through free elections. People enjoy full political freedom, including freedom of

press and assembly. Its per capita income ranks among the highest in the world.

The State of Washington, including the Seventh Congressional District, has enjoyed the close commercial, social and cultural ties that link our two nations. Many of our brightest leaders in the state trace their roots to Taiwan, and the Taiwanese American community is integral to our country's rich ethnic diversity.

The annual commemoration of this historic date is a valuable reminder that freedom and justice are paramount goals shared by our countries.

Again, congratulations to Taiwan and its people on their National Day.

# REMEMBERING THE LATE JOE LAPPIN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my good friend and neighbor L.W. "Joe" Lappin. Joe passed away Monday, September 8, at the age of 85.

Joe, as everyone knew him, was a pillar of our community, as a member of the Boulder City Elks Club, Archeo Nevada, and the 31ers Club. Joe was a fountain of knowledge about Boulder City for all of those, including myself, who wanted to know about the origins and traditions of this unique community. As a former Mayor of Boulder City, I knew that I could count on Joe to know what needed to be done, and more importantly, what I was doing wrong.

Joe is survived by his wife Patricia, his two children and three grandchildren. We will all miss Joe, and I urge the members of this House to join me in expressing our condolences to his family and friends.

# IN MEMORY OF ROMAN Q. BENAVENTE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend, Roman Quichocho Benavente who passed away on September 30, 2003.

Roman was born on February 22, 1922. He was married to the late, Margarita Mendiola Mesa Benavente and father to Frances B. Leon Guerrero, Nora B. "Lola" Beck, Barbara B. "Bobbie" Vaira, Randolph Mesa "Randy" Benavente, Raymond Mesa Benavente, and Bernice B. Batson and the late Danny San Nicholas. He was also grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend.

Roman was a shining example of the strength and courage of the Chamorro people. We are proud and grateful of his 50 years of service to his country and his people. He was a 30-year veteran of the United States Navy from which he retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 1970. He went on to serve with the United States Capitol Police, retiring after 20 years in 1991.

Although Roman and his family remained in the states after his retirement, his love for the island of Guam and his Chamorro heritage was constant. Together he and Margarita raised their children with a deep appreciation of their Chamorro heritage and a love of their island home. As a founding member of the Guam Territorial Society, now known as the Guam Society of America, Inc., he was an active member, planning and participating in all activities. More importantly, Roman has helped bring those of us residing in the area together to continue our local traditions and to help pass these traditions on to our children.

Roman was known for his kindness, generosity and his sense of humor. He was known for his love for God, his family and friends, his island and his country. He was known for his love of cooking, singing and dancing. Yet for the many things for which Roman will be remembered, I will especially remember Roman for his steadfast loyalty, support and friendship to me and my family throughout the years. Roman would open his home to us whenever we visited Washington, D.C. and I could count on his presence and participation at all my events. In fact, on the day I was sworn in as Guam's Delegate, he was the first person to arrive for the ceremony. He came early to offer his assistance. This was typical of Roman. Whenever anything needed to be done, he was the first to arrive and the last to leave, doing what needed to be done and having a great time doing it.

We have much to learn from Roman and the way he lived his life. He taught us to love, to laugh and to celebrate and to be there for each other. Though we mourn his death, we honor his life in living by his example. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Roman Quichocho Benavente.

# TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE BARRON

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 2003*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Barron, a teacher at Claremont Middle School in New Hampshire. He passed away this summer, but has left behind a deep impression on his students. Because I cannot improve upon the sentiments expressed by one of his former students, Robin Lasko, I will simply include her letter to me and close by saying he will be missed.

DEAR CHARLIE BASS: On the night of July 25, 2003, one of the finest educators the state of New Hampshire has ever seen passed away. His name was Steve Barron, a seventh grade social studies teacher.

My name is Robin Lasko, and in the fall of 2003 I will become a junior at Stevens High School. Mr. Barron was my homeroom teacher in seventh grade. He will always be remembered for the things he taught me, things that books could never show. He taught me to have compassion for the earth, and to care even when no one else does. He taught me that being accepted by the public eye was not the only thing that mattered in life, and he taught me to think of the consequences of everything I do.

The first day of seventh grade, I walked into Mr. Barron's classroom and was very intimidated. My first thought was that I was